

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2807

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: RFIS, RP

SUBJ: U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHING EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION

REF: A. STATE 055582, B. 77 MANILA A-240

1. DUE TO MEDICAL, LABORATORY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTATION TRADE FAIR, AUGUST 14-18, EMBASSY UNABLE TO RECEIVE FISHING EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION, AUGUST 21-25. THE LARGE SIZE OF TRADE FAIR MAKES HANDLING OF FISHING TRADE MISSION DIFFICULT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS EITHER SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OR, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL DOC-SCHEDULED EVENTS, EARLY JULY OR MID-JULY AS ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR FISHING TRADE MISSION.

2. EMBASSY FINDS TRADE MISSION WORTHWHILE, AS FISHING HAS RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SOURCES IN RECENT MONTHS (SEE REFAIR). PRESIDENT MARCOS MARCH 8 MADE SPEECH AT OPENING OF INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION ITERATING GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN PHILIPPINES, AND CALLING FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FISH PRODUCTION. EMPHASIS IN THE SPEECH WAS PLACED ON SEA FARMING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SMALL UNPRODUCTIVE MUNICIPAL FISHING, EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO SMALL FISHERMEN, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIAN INSTITUTE OF AQUACULTURE. THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD MAKE SUCH A SPEECH IN THE MIDST OF A BUSY ELECTION CAMPAIGN REFLECTS THE EXTENT OF GOVERN-
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MENT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FISHERY INDUSTRY.

3. ENUMERATED CATEGORIES IN REFTTEL ARE RELEVANT TO THE PHILIPPINES. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR U.S. SUPPLIERS IS RECENT INCREASED INTEREST IN TUNA BUSINESS. THERE IS A NEED FOR PURSE SEINING EQUIPMENT, FUEL-CONSERVING ENGINES, FISH-FINDING TECHNOLOGY,

AND REFRIGERATED FISH CARRIERS. A PREFERENCE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, FOR SECOND-HAND RATHER THAN NEW BOATS AND EQUIPMENT.

4. EMBASSY HOPES THAT UPCOMING TRADE MISSION CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY RESCHEDULED.
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